

**ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION DECLARING THE
PRESERVATION OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND NON-DISCRIMINATION IN
ALABAMA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education believes that all individuals are endowed with equal inalienable rights, without respect to race or sex, and

WHEREAS, concepts that impute fault, blame, a tendency to oppress others, or the need to feel guilt or anguish to persons solely because of their race or sex violate the premises of individual rights, equal opportunity, and individual merit, and therefore have no place in professional development for teachers, administrators, or other employees of the public educational system of the State of Alabama, and

WHEREAS, for the same reasons, such concepts should not be taught to students in the public educational system of the State of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alabama State Board of Education affirms that we will not support, or impart, any K-12 public education resources or standards intended to indoctrinate students in social or political ideologies that promote one race or sex above another; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes that slavery and racism are betrayals of the founding principles of the United States, including freedom, equality, justice, and humanity, and that individuals living today should not be punished or discriminated against because of past actions committed by members of the same race or sex, but that we should move forward to create a better future together; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education intends to adopt rules and regulations specifically prohibiting each local board of education from offering K-12 instruction intended to indoctrinate students in social or political ideologies that promote one race or sex above another. All K-12 instruction in Alabama Course of Study standards required for graduation, professional development, and other activities shall be in accordance with the *Alabama Administrative Code* and the most current Alabama State Board of Education resolution regarding intellectual freedom and non-discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education intends that no federal grant shall be applied for or accepted by the Department, if such grant requires or encourages the teaching of the concepts or implementation of the practices contrary to the sentiments expressed in this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education believes that no state education agency, local education agency, or school should train any administrator, teacher, staff member, or employee, or teach any student, to believe that one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex; that members of one race or sex cannot, or should not attempt to, treat others disrespectfully due to race or sex; or that fault, blame, or bias should be assigned to a race or sex, or to members of a race or sex solely or partly because of their race or sex; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education values and promotes honest and healthy research, debate, and dialogue as important and valuable to the educational experience and that such should not be infringed upon so long as it is responsible and respectful. Rather, students and educators should be encouraged to engage in the marketplace of ideas, subject to developmental appropriateness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education acknowledges the right to express differing opinions, foster and defend intellectual honesty, engage in freedom of inquiry, and honor freedom of speech as required by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in the public schools of Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education intends to adopt rules and regulations codifying the tenets of this resolution into the *Alabama Administrative Code* as provided by law.

Done this 12th day of August 2021

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 290-040-040
AUDITS AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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290-040-040-.01 Student Services. The State Superintendent of Education shall prepare a disseminate materials designed to assist local education agencies (LEAs) in developing a comprehensive program of student services.

Author:

Statutory Authority: Const. of Ala. of 1901, Amend. No. 184, Code of Ala. 1975, §§ 16-3-11 through 13, 16-4-4.

History: Amended June 15, 1979.

cf. Bulletin 1979, No. 7, a Handbook for Comprehensive Guidance Programs, Alabama State Department of Education, Montgomery, AL 36130.

290-040-040-.02 **Certain Teaching Techniques.**

(1) Each local board of education may offer instruction in yoga to students in grades K-12, subject to the provisions of Chapter 40 of title 16, Code of Alabama 1975. The State Board of Education is aware of concerns that certain techniques in some school materials or programs need clarification. The State Board of Education specifically prohibits the use of hypnosis and dissociative mental states. School personnel shall be prohibited from using any techniques that involve the induction of hypnotic states, guided imagery, meditation, or yoga. These terms are defined as follows:

~~he State Board of Education is aware of concerns that certain techniques in some school materials or~~

(a) ~~—Dissociative Mental State Another way of describing a hypnotic state. It refers to the separation or isolation of mental processes in such a way that they become split off from the main personality or lose their normal thought affect relationship. In such a state the boundary between the real and fantasy or illusion becomes blurred.~~

(b) Hypnosis—A dissociative or altered state of consciousness, usually artificially induced, characterized by a heightened responsiveness to suggestions and commands, suspension of disbelief with lowering of critical judgment, the potential of alteration of perceptions. A common induction technique is that of progressive relaxation. This involves the serial or sequential use, in some combination, of the following: turning off the lights, reclining, closing the eyes, counted measured deep breathing, exercises, counting backwards, alternate tensing and relaxing of muscle groups, or repeating a single word or phrase.

(c) Guided Imagery—Can be described with various terms or labels, such as visualization, visual imagery, guided imagery or guided fantasy. Guided imagery is used as an induction or deepening technique of hypnosis/meditation. It involves the communication or suggestion, describing a scene in which the student/subject is encouraged to experientially participate, normally following a progressive relaxation technique.

NOTE: Guided imagery, a common induction technique of hypnosis, should not be confused with the normal use of the imagination.

(d) Meditation—An altered or dissociative state, of consciousness often synonymous with hypnosis associated with or derived from the mystical traditions of the East, sometimes called transcendental meditation, normally induced by progressive relaxation (H. Benson's Relaxation Response), focusing on deep breaths and a mantra (repeated word or phrase).

NOTE: This is not to be confused with secular meditation which involves alert, reflective and cognitive contemplation.

(e) Yoga—A Hindu philosophy and method of religious training in which eastern meditation and contemplation are joined with physical exercises, allegedly to facilitate the development of body-mind-spirit.

(2) (2) The State Board of Education specifically prohibits each local board of education from offering K-12 instruction that indoctrinates students in social or political ideologies or theories that promote one race or sex above another. All K-12 instruction, Alabama Courses of Study standards, professional development, and other activities shall be in accordance with the most current State Board resolution regarding intellectual freedom and non-discrimination.

(2) (3) Consistent with state law, all school personnel charged with the responsibility of teaching students should take great care to emphasize that conduct prohibited by law is not appropriate in a civilized society. School personnel should also emphasize the consequences of conduct that is prohibited by law or that is highly likely to result in harmful consequences to the health of a person. Such conduct shall not be presented to students as legitimate options for their consideration. Nothing contained herein shall be interpreted as requiring the teaching of and/or about alternative lifestyles and/or illegal conduct.

(3) (4) Local boards of education should make great efforts to identify parental concerns. Specifically, local boards of education shall, at a minimum, afford parents access to instructors and the opportunity to review the programs and materials to be utilized. For programs and materials not otherwise subject to state or local review processes, local boards should make every effort to seek the support of school patrons.

Authors: Bettye Fine Collins, Tazewell T. Shepard

Statutory Authority: Constitution of Alabama of 1901, amend 284, Code of Ala. 1975, §§16-3-12, 16-3-13.

History: New 1993

290-040-040-.03 Voluntary Prayer At School Related Events.(Repealed)

Author: Tazewell T. Shepard

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§16-3-12, 16-3-13. History: New Rule: Filed September 18, 1993; December 3, 1993; effective January 7, 1994. Repealed: Filed June 20, 1997; effective July 25, 1997.

Authors: _____

Statutory Authority:

History: Amended: Filed _____; effective _____.